United Nations A/54/848–S/2000/338

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 April 2000
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 10, 11, 67 and 76 (j)

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Report of the Security Council

Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements

General and complete disarmament: consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

Letter dated 19 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention an official communication from the press centre of the State secretariat of the security council of the Republic of Belarus concerning the contents of an article published in *The Sunday Telegraph* on 16 April 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, under agenda items 10, 11, 67 and 76 (j), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aleksandr **Sychov**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations

00-40044 (E) 240400 260400

Annex to the letter dated 19 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communication from the press centre of the State secretariat of the security council of the Republic of Belarus

On 16 April 2000, an article was published in *The Sunday Telegraph* in which the Republic of Belarus was accused of military cooperation with Iraq, in violation of the United Nations arms embargo against that country. The article claims that Belarus intends to assist Iraq in upgrading air defence systems, re-equipping the air force, and providing air defence training for military specialists.

The press centre of the State secretariat of the security council is authorized to state that the allegations made in the newspaper are groundless. Belarus has not cooperated and is not cooperating with Iraq in the military sphere. It is regrettable that an authoritative organ like *The Sunday Telegraph* published false information, misleading the public and discrediting the peace-loving foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus, which has always strictly complied with the decisions of the United Nations and the provisions and principles of international law, and continues to do so.